# David Haigh





**Rank: -** Private

**Number: -** 3/839

**Regiment: -** King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion (previously 2nd Battalion)

**Died of Wounds: -** 22nd July 1916 aged 24 years

**Cemetery: -** Batley, Yorkshire M. 56.

Batley News 29th July 1916 (photo). Dewsbury Reporter 29th July 1916 (photo)

## Family Details

David was born in Batley on the 1st May 1892 **the s**on of Henry and Sarah Jane Haigh nee Blakeley who had married on 8th January 1889 at Ossett & Gawthorpe Holy and Undivided Trinity Church. He was baptised on 7th August 1892 at the same church when his father stated he was a mill-hand living at Healey, Batley.

In 1901 the family was living at 40, North Street, Batley and Henry was employed as a woollen spinner.

His siblings were Mary Ann born in 1890 followed by David, Clara 1895, Doris 1899, Florence Victoria 1903, Harry 1905, Lilian 1907. Arthur born 1897 had sadly died in November 1898 aged 16 months.

In 1911 the family lived at 79, Taylor Street, Batley, moving to 28, Victoria Street, Carlinghow before 1916.

David worked in the spinning department of Messrs. Wrigley and Parker, Valley Road, Mills. He was well known in Batley and as a boy was associated with Cross Bank Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday School.

His father Henry died in December 1922 and his mother married widower John Henry Emerson on 14th April 1934 at Carlinghow St. John's Church.

## Service Details

David had served for three years in the Militia when war broke out and was undergoing his annual training but was immediately sent to France.

*1914*

The Battle of Mons and subsequent retreat, including the Action of Elouges (23-24 August)
The Battle of Le Cateau and the Affair of Crepy-en-Valois (26 August)
The Battle of the Marne (7-10 Sept)
The Battle of the Aisne (12-15 Sept)
David was wounded with frost bite on Boxing Day 1914 and was sent home arriving in Batley on New Year's Day 1915.

On recovering he rejoined his unit, probably going to the 9th Battalion at this stage, but owing to an attack of pneumonia did not go out to the Front until late 1915. From then

he had several narrow escapes, but received no injuries until July 1916 when besides shrapnel injuries to the arm and body he received a bullet wound which proved fatal. He will have fought at Fricourt on the 1st July 1916- the 1st day of the battle of the Somme. The battalion lost 15 officers and another 7 were wounded. Casualties for other ranks were 474 of which "about"415 were killed. David was wounded and sustained very severe injuries having four big wounds in the chest, five in the right arm, one in the left and one in the leg.

He did not die immediately but was taken to Boulogne and brought to Netley Hospital, Southampton on the 8th July where his parents went to see him. When his mother was leaving he said "*Come and see me in the morning, mother*" but when she went the next morning it was to find him in his coffin.

The medical staff informed her it had been hopeless from the start because he had four terrible wounds in the chest in addition to five in the right arm one in the left and one in the leg. Sadly he had been given leave to come home to marry Miss Annie Grant but the leave was cancelled because of the "Big Push" on July 1st.

David was brought home to Batley, and the funeral took place the following Tuesday and was conducted with full military honours lead by Rev. Evan Lloyd. The coffin of unpolished oak, was draped with the Union Jack and conveyed on a gun carriage drawn by two horses. The Last Post was sounded after the usual volleys. Many people attended the funeral on that Tuesday afternoon. The coffin bore the inscription: -

*"No.839, Private David Haigh, K.O.Y.L.I. died July 22nd 1916 aged 24 years"*

David was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.

His cousin George William Haigh from Ossett had been killed by a sniper on the 2nd December 1915.



Researched by members of Batley History Group